

City Council**Notice of Motion**

MM44.26	ACTION			Ward:6
---------	--------	--	--	--------

Feasibility of Renaming a Park as "Thomas Wilkie Park" - by Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** Notice of this Motion has been given.*

** This Motion is subject to referral to the Etobicoke York Community Council. A two-thirds vote is required to waive referral.*

Recommendations

Councillor Mark Grimes, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation to consider the feasibility of renaming either Long Branch Park or Len Ford Park to "Thomas Wilkie Park" and report to the Etobicoke York Community Council.

Summary

In the late 1800's the Long Branch neighbourhood in Etobicoke was a cottage resort community for affluent Toronto residents to vacation in the summer. In 1886, Thomas J. Wilkie developed 64 acres of prime waterfront land into the resort called "Long Branch Park", in the area approximately between 33rd Street and 35th Street. The resort was gated and elegantly designed with fountains, tennis and croquet lawns, boat houses, a grand pavilion, and a Coney Island carousel. Thomas J. Wilkie also sold 250 choice wooded villa lots, most of them 50 feet wide and 150 feet deep, which were soon populated with Queen Anne-style cottages with turrets, peaked roofs and shady, wrap-around verandas, designed by some of Toronto's most prominent architects. Visitors could also stay at the Hotel Long Branch, an elegant building with Japanese balconies and pagoda towers.

Thomas J. Wilkie held leadership positions with the YMCA in Toronto and in Brooklyn, New York, and helped build the organization up in both cities. Mr. Wilkie helped put Long Branch on the map for Toronto, including inspiring the name of the neighbourhood.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.26

Attachment 1 - Information on the History of Long Branch

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2018/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-118988.pdf>